

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 2-19 remain in this application. Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 10-19 have been withdrawn from consideration.

The examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by *Fuller* (United States Patent 5,877,041).

The examiner has objected to claims 2-7 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The examiner has allowed claim 8.

In view of the above amendments and these remarks, reconsideration of the above noted rejections and objections is respectfully requested.

Error in the Office Action:

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 has been accidentally noted in the office action as being withdrawn from consideration. Claim 9, however, is actually dependent on independent claim 8, which has been noted in the office action as allowed. In the previous office action, claim 9 was noted as allowed along with claim 8. Applicant respectfully requests that claim 9 be allowed again.

Rejections under 35 USC 102(b):

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 has been canceled by the above amendments, thereby curing the grounds for the rejection of claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-5 have been amended by the above amendments into independent form without adding new matter or new limitations. Claims 6 and 7 depend from claim 5 and have not been amended. Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that the grounds for the objection to claims 2-7 have been cured and that claims 2-7 are now allowable.

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Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 8 is allowed.

For the reasons specifically discussed above, and others, it is believed that **claims 2-9** define patentable subject matter. Reconsideration of the previous rejections and objections as they might apply to the pending claims is therefore respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Date

Respectfully submitted,



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